Dam on Brahmaputra river

*154. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has expressed concern over China's reported plan to build a dam on the Brahmaputra river and divert 200 billion cubic meters of water annually to feed its agencing Yellow river;

(b) whether this issue and security concerns over investments by Chinese companies and settlement of border issues were discussed with Chinese President during his recent visit to India;

(c) if so, the other issues discussed; and

(d) whether any concrete agreements were reached and signed?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes.

(b) to (d) During the visit of the Chinese President to India in November last year, various issues of mutual interest, including the India-China boundary question, two-way investment flows and cooperation relating to trans-border rivers, were discussed. A number of initiatives were announced to consolidate institutional linkages between the two Governments, encourage comprehensive economic engagement, promote trans-border connectivity and cooperation, and enhance science and technology, cultural and people-to-people exchanges. A Joint Declaration that spells out a ten-pronged strategy to further substantiate and reinforce their Strategic and Cooperative Partnership was issued during the visit. The two sides signed thirteen bilateral documents covering: establishment of Consultates-General at Guangzhou and Kolkata; cooperation between the two Foreign Offices; provision of land in Shanghai for the Consulate General of India; promotion and protection of investments; cooperation in inspection of iron ore exports; phytosanitary requirements for exporting rice from India to China; cooperation in agricultural research; educational exchanges; conservation of cultural heritage; commodity futures regulatory cooperation; forestry cooperation; prevention of theft, clandestine excavation and illicit import and export of cultural property; and cooperation between the Indian Institute of Public Administration and the Central Party School of the Communist Party of China.